

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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P R 291315Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4759

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6364

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL-MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

REFS (A) LISBON 6317 DTG 251302Z OCT 75

(B) LISBON 6338 DTG 281342Z OCT 75

(C) LISBON 6291 DTG 241440Z OCT 75

(D) LISBON DAO IR 6879-0564 75 DTG 211325Z OCT 75

SUMMARY: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS REACHED AGREEMENT OCT 28 ON SHAPE
OF AUSTERITY MEASURES. PREVIOUSLY UNHEARD OF AIR FORCE VIGILANCE
COMMITTEE DENOUNCED AIR FORCE PREPARATION FOR ALLEGED RIGHTIST COUP.
STEPPED-UP AIR FORCE ACTIVITY ACTUALLY REFLECTS MEASURES TAKEN TO
STRENGTHEN AND PROTECT DEPENDABLE MILITARY CAPABILITY. MODERATE
OFFICERS HAVE SOUGHT TO BROADEN SUPPORT WITHIN ARMED FORCES BY
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CREATION OF A "SINGLE MILITARY FRONT", WHILE RADICAL

SOLDIERS ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATIONS FOR OCT 29 IN OPORTO AND ENTRONCAMENTO. END SUMMARY.

1. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETS: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MET OCT 28, AND ANNOUNCED THAT CONSENSUS HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE DIRECTION OF ECONOMIC POLICZ. MINISTERE PRODUCED APPROVED WORKING DOCUMENT, SKETCHING OUT CONTEMPLATED AUSTERITY MEASURES, BUT WILL NOT MAKE CONTENTS OF DOCUMENT PUBLIC UNTIL PLAN HAS BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED.

2. POLITICO-MILITARY ACTIVITIES:

-- COMMUNIST-LINING MORNING NEWSPAPERS OF OCT 29 FAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO WARNING BY PREVIOUSLY UNHEARD OF AIR FORCE COMMITTEE OF REVOLUTIONARY VIGILANCE THAT RACTIONARY OPERATION, "SIMILAR TO ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT OF MARCH 11," IS IN PREPARATION IN AIR FORCE. VIGILANCE COMMITTEE WARNED THAT RECENT CONCENTRATION OF ARMAMENTS AND AIRCRAFT, INSTALLATION OF A SECURITY SYSTEM MANNED BY PARATROOPERS, INTENSIFIED TRAINING OF PERSONNEL AT SEVERAL AIR BASES, PERSECUTION OF PROGRESSIVE MILITARY, AND OTHER MEASURES ALL POINTED TO UPCOMING REACTIONARY MOVE BY AIR FORCE. VIGILANCE COMMITTEE CALLED ON PAF PERSONNEL TO HOLD ASSEMBLIES TO QUESTION MEASURES TAKEN.

-- RADICAL MILITARY MEET: THE SOLDIERS' ACTION COMMISSION OF OPORTO ARTILLERY REGIMENT (RASP) ANNOUNCED NEW ATTEMPT TO HOLD PLENARY OCT 29, SINCE MILITARY ALERT OF OCT 24 HAD INTERFERED WITH PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETING (REF A). A NUMBER OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS AND WORKERS' COMMISSIONS ANNOUNCED THEIR SUPPORT FOR RASP INITIATIVE. "SOLDIERS UNITED WILL WIN" (SUV) HAS SCHEDULED DEMONSTRATION FOR OCT 29 IN CENTRAL MILITARY REGION TOWN OF ENTRONCAMENTO, 60 MILES NORTH OF LISBON.

--MODERATE MILITARY ORGANIZATION: OCT 29 JORNAL DO COMERCIO REPORTED THAT OFFICERS FROM THREE SERVICE BRANCHES, WHO ARE SYMPATHETIC TO "THE NINE" AND "INTERESTED IN CREATION OF A COMMON FRONT AGAINST FASCISM AND SOCIAL FASCISM (READ COMMUNISM), WILL MEET OCT 30. LAST MEETING OF GROUP KNOWN AS "SINGLE MILITARY FRONT" -

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"FRENTE MILITAR UNICA", REPORTEDLY AGREED ON BASIC
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PRINCIPLE OF DEMOCRACY WHERE MINORITIES SUBMIT TO MAJORITY RULE.

3. SOARES TALKS TOUGH: IN OCT 28 PRESS CONFERENCE, SOCIALIST (PS) LEADER MARIO SOARES TOOK STRONG STAND IN DEFENSE OF OCT 26 ACTION BY PS SUPPORTERS WHO FORCEFULLY EXPELLED COMMUNIST AND FAR LEFT ELEMENTS FROM OFFICES OF CIVIL GOVERNOR IN FARO (REF B). SOARES SAID: "... PEOPLE OF ALGARVE AND SOCIALIST PARTY, IN PARTICULAR WILL NOT GIVE WAY IN THE FACE OF VIOLENCE BY MINORITY

GROUPS. AND, IF THE ARMED FORCES DO NOT WANT TO COMPLY WITH
THEIR DUTY TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND PROTECT PUBLIC BUILDINGS, THE
SOCIALIST PARTY AND THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE ARE PREPARED TO
MAINTAIN IT IN A REVOLUTIONARY AND DEMOCRATIC MANNER".

4. COMMENT: DAO AND MAAG REPORTS HAVE NOTED ADDITIONAL
TRAINING OF PERSONNEL AND MOVEMENT OF PAF EQUIPMENT IN ORDER TO
STRENGTHEN AND PROTECT DEPENDABLE MILITARY CAPABILITY FROM LEFTISTS (REFS
C AND D). THE CREATION OF THE "SINGLE MILITARY FRONT" IS AN ATTEMPT B
Y
MODERATE ELEMENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO BROADEN SUPPORT FOR THE
AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT. ON THE OTHER SIDE, INSIDIOUS TREATMENT OF PAF ACT
IONS
SEEKS TO DISCREDIT AND POSSIBLY DISRUPT THE BUILDING, AND ALSO
KEEP ALIVE FRARS OF A RIGHTIST COUP ATTEMPT.
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